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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 19 May 1950

SUBJECT Planned Expansion of Soviet  
Zone Steel Works

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Attached is a copy of 1950 - 1955 Project B for the Scheduled Construction and Concentration of Nationalized Steelworks in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
2. The total volumetric capacity of the blast furnaces indicated may furnish at least an approximate estimate of the production capacity of the scheduled blast furnace plants. It can be assumed that the daily production of the new blast furnace plants will average about one ton of pig iron per cubic meter of furnace volume.
3. A compilation of installations in the plants projected give the following totals:
  - 85 blast furnaces
  - 27 converters
  - 1,517 open-hearth furnaces
 A large number of rolling mills, the capacity of which is scheduled considerably to exceed even that of the steel-producing installations.

## Comment:

This report is not credible. The Soviet Zone of Germany has at present only one iron and steelworks with four blast furnaces (Maximilianhuetten in Unterwellenborn - M 51/J 63). According to official indications of the Soviet Zone Two-Year Plan, the Maximilianhuetten is scheduled to produce 370,000 tons in 1950. It would be impossible to increase the number of blast furnaces from 4 to 106 with a volumetric capacity of 41,833 cubic meters by 1955, as indicated here. The Soviet Zone coal and ore potential is also much too small to warrant such an increase in pig iron capacity. Coke and ore imports from nearby Poland and Czechoslovakia have already encountered difficulties. The figures on steel-producing

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installations (Thomas converters and open-hearth furnaces) are also improbable, while electric furnaces are not listed at all. The 1955 planning figure for the various kinds of rolling mills is also greatly exaggerated.

b. The Land of Saxony-Anhalt is not included in the enumeration of the Soviet Zone of Germany Laender. Its share would increase the planning figures given for the construction of iron and steelworks and make this report still more improbable.

c. A mistake in the transcription of the shorthand copy may be responsible for the discrepancy between the total figures on blast furnaces, converters and open-hearth furnaces indicated by source and those shown in the Annex.

1 Annex: 1950-1955 Project B for the Scheduled Construction and Concentration of Nationalized Steelworks in the Soviet Zone of Germany

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